

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 AMMAN 09603 241331Z

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FM AMEMBASSY AMMAN

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S E C R E T AMMAN 9603

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E.O. 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: OVIP (CARTER, JIMMY)

SUBJECT: PRESIDENT'S MEETING WITH HUSSEIN IN TEHRAN

REF: A) AMMAN 9577, B) STATE 306258, C) STATE 306326 RE-  
PEATING TEHRAN 11307)

SUMMARY: SHARAF ASKED ABOUT TIMING AND TEXT OF  
PRESS ANNOUNCEMENT FOR KING'S MEETING WITH PRESIDENT  
IN TEHRAN. JORDAN PREFERS HIGHLIGHTING U.S. ROLE IN  
INVITING KING TO MEET WITH THE PRESIDENT. HE ASKS  
FOR OUR THOUGHTS AND SAYS HE HOPES TO WORK OUT TEXT  
WITH THE IRANIANS FOR EARLY ISSUANCE. SHARAF SAID  
PARALLEL SADAT MEETING WITH PRESIDENT IN TEHRAN WOULD  
CAUSE HUSSEIN TO RECONSIDER HIS ATTENDANCE. SITUATION  
WITH SYRIA IS AS CLOSE TO THE BREAKING POINT AS IT  
CAN GET. I SAID I WAS NOT INFORMED OF DETAILS OF  
ANY MEETING WITH SADAT, AND INDEED WITH OTHER MIDDLE  
EAST LEADERS, BUT WOULD SEEK INSTRUCTIONS IMMEDIATELY.  
SHARAF THOUGHT SADAT MEETING LOGICAL, SAW VALUE IN  
IT TAKING PLACE IN RIYADH, OR POSSIBLY EVEN CAIRO  
WITH BEGIN ATTENDING. PLEASE LET ME KNOW OF YOUR  
THOUGHTS ON THESE TWO POINTS AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.  
END SUMMARY

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1. COURT CHIEF SHARAF ASKED TO SEE ME MORNING DECEMBER  
24. HE DEBRIEFED ME ON HIS VIEWS OF KING'S TRIP TO  
GULF AND JORDANIAN NEXT DIPLOMATIC STEPS (SEPTTEL).

2. PRINCIPAL SUBJECTS ON HIS MIND WERE ANNOUNCEMENT  
OF KING'S VISIT TO TEHRAN AND ARRANGEMENTS WHICH WE  
WERE OR MIGHT BE MAKING TO SEE OTHER ARAB LEADERS

DURING PRESIDENT'S VISIT TO THE AREA.

3. ON THE ANNOUNCEMENT TO THE PRESS, KING HAD TOLD SHARAF TO COORDINATE WITH ME AND MY IRANIAN COLLEAGUE. HE HAD ASKED TO SEE ME FIRST. HE SAID THAT HIS PREFERENCE WOULD BE TO DIVIDE THE ANNOUNCEMENT IN TWO PORTIONS, WITH THE FIRST PORTION HIGHLIGHTING THE FACT THAT THE PRESIDENT AND HUSSEIN HAD BEEN IN DIRECT TOUCH TO WORK OUT THE MEETING. THE SECOND PORTION WOULD REFER TO THE SHAH'S INVITATION WHICH FACILITATED GETTING TOGETHER. HE WOULD LIKE TO GO AHEAD WITH THE ANNOUNCEMENT AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.

4. I REPLIED THAT I HAD NO INSTRUCTIONS ON THIS POINT AND WOULD CONVEY HIS WISHES TO WASHINGTON AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. I SAID WE OF COURSE WANT TO DO NOTHING WHICH WOULD DISTURB OR UPSET THE IRANIANS. AS REGARDS TIMING, I ASKED HIM IF HE WOULD HOLD OFF FOR SOME HOURS MAKING THE ANNOUNCEMENT UNTIL I COULD RECEIVE WASHINGTON'S REACTION. HE AGREED IN LIGHT OF MY REQUEST AND INFORMATION IN FOLLOWING PARAGRAPHS TO HOLD OFF. HE SAID ABOVE IDEAS ARE HIS OWN, BUT IRANIANS COULD VERY WELL HAVE A DIFFERENT FEEL ABOUT HOW TO HANDLE THE PRESS ANNOUNCEMENT.

5. SHARAF ALSO SAID VERY CLEARLY TO ME THAT KING WOULD  
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BE GREATLY UPSET IF SADAT WERE TO BE MEETING WITH THE PRESIDENT IN TEHRAN. HE ASKED WHAT I COULD TELL HIM ABOUT THIS. I SAID THAT I HAD NO RECENT INFORMATION, BUT THAT EVERYTHING WHICH I HAD RECEIVED, INCLUDING DISCUSSIONS WITH THE SECRETARY WHEN HE WAS HERE, MADE IT CLEAR TO ME THAT MEETING IN TEHRAN WAS NOT BEING CONSIDERED. SHARAF SAID HE THOUGHT IT WOULD BE VERY USEFUL, PARTICULARLY REGARDING SAUDI ATTITUDES, IF SUCH A MEETING WERE TO TAKE PLACE IN RIYADH. ALTERNATIVELY, HE THOUGHT THE PRESIDENT MIGHT CONSIDER STOPPING IN CAIRO. I TOLD HIM I THOUGHT THESE TWO WERE DISTINCT POSSIBILITIES, DEPENDENT UPON THE RESULTS OF THE NEXT FEW DAYS' ACTIVITIES. HOWEVER, I COULD NOT SPEAK WITH CERTAINTY ON THIS POINT AND WOULD ASK FOR FURTHER INFORMATION. WITH RESPECT TO TEHRAN, I ALSO TOLD SHARAF I THOUGHT ONE REASON WHY WE FOUND IT INCONVENIENT TO SEE ASAD THERE WAS BECAUSE SADAT WOULD NOT BE PRESENT AT WHAT MIGHT APPEAR TO BE A KIND OF MINI-SUMMIT WHICH WOULD EXCLUDE HIM.

6. JORDANIANS HAVE QUITE LOGICALLY CONCLUDED THAT

IF PRESIDENT IS GOING TO SEE HUSSEIN AND INVITE ASAD, HE WILL UNDOUBTEDLY BE SEEING OTHERS. I BELIEVE IT IS NOW NOT TOO EARLY TO LET HUSSEIN KNOW SOMETHING OF OUR PLANS AND PROPOSALS ON THIS SCORE. OBVIOUSLY WE HAVE BEEN KEEPING SADAT INFORMED. THE MEETINGS WILL BE OF POLITICAL IMPORTANCE FOR EACH STATE IN THE AREA AND A LACK OF SOME SENSE OF OUR PLANNING COULD LEAD SOME FRIENDS LIKE HUSSEIN INTO MAKING CHOICES PARTLY IN THE DARK, CHOICES WHICH HE WOULD FIND EMBARRASSING OR DIFFICULT AT A LATTER STAGE.

7. ACTION REQUESTED: (A) PLEASE LET ME HAVE BY RETURN CABLE WHATEVER THOUGHTS YOU MAY WISH ME TO  
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CONVEY TO SHARAF ON THE PRESS ANNOUNCEMENT. I DISLIKE MAKING THIS A TRI-LATERAL NEGOTIATION, BUT SINCE WE HAVE BEEN DIRECTLY APPROACHED BY THE JORDANIANS, I BELIEVE WE SHOULD GIVE THEM OUR VIEWS ON TEXT AND TIMING; AND (B) SOME SORT OF A GENERAL SITUATION REPORT FOR HUSSEIN PERSONALLY ON THE PRESIDENT'S MEETING PLANS WITH OTHER MIDDLE EAST LEADERS SO THAT KING CAN BE KEPT IN THE PICTURE AND AVOID ANY DIPLOMATIC MISSTEPS ON HIS PART.

8. I ALSO CONVEYED BASIC INFORMATION REFTEL C) REGARDING TEHRAN SCHEDULE FLEXIBILITY ON OUR PART TO SHARAF. SHARAF TOLD ME THAT THIS WAS SOMETHING KING WOULD HAVE TO CONSIDER AND I HAVE BEEN IN TOUCH WITH HIM ON THIS AND RELATED POINTS BY TELEPHONE AND EXPECT TO BE TALKING WITH HIM DIRECTLY VERY SHORTLY.  
PICKERING

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## Message Attributes

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**Review Markings:**  
Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
22 May 2009  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009